

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
ACDA-10 IO-13 DHA-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 /102 W
-----180725Z 087047 /13

R 171754Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1658
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

UNCLAS LONDON 04474

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UK
SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN'S TRIP REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

1. ADDRESSING A MARCH 15 SESSION OF THE COMMONS, PRIME
MINISTER CALLAGHAN REPORTED ON HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND
HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE TOLD THE
COMMONS THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THE PRESIDENT WOULD PROVIDE
POSITIVE LEADERSHIP TO THE WEST AND RECOGNIZED THE
IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND
ITS ALLIES. CALLAGHAN REAFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S
COMMITMENT TO FOSTER THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WHICH THE
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PRESIDENT HAD STRESSED DURING THE VISIT. IN REVIEWING
THEIR DISCUSSIONS CALLAGHAN STATED THAT WHILE THE EMPHA-
SIS HAD BEEN ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS
HAD BEEN COVERED IN SOME DETAIL, INCLUDING EAST/WEST
RELATIONS, ARMS CONTROL, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONCORDE AND
REGIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE COMMONS THAT ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS HAD INCLUDED WORLD UNEMPLOYMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE. HE URGED THE PRESIDENT TO RESIST PRESSURES FOR PROTECTIONISM WHICH WOULD DELAY RECOVERY FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RECESSION. REACTING TO THIS STATEMENT IN THE SUBSEQUENT QUESTION PERIOD, CONSERVATIVE LEADER MARGARET THATCHER OBSERVED THAT TRADE BARRIERS IN THE U.S. "...SOMETIMES SEEM TO BE HIGHER THAN IN THE REST OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD."

3. WITH RESPECT TO CONCORDE, CALLAGHAN STATED THAT HE HAD TRIED TO KEEP THIS ISSUE IN ITS PROPER PLACE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL UK/U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. EXPLAINING THE OPPOSITION TO CONCORDE IN THE U.S., HE NOTED THAT "...WE MUST CONSIDER THAT THERE ARE GENUINE ENVIRONMENTAL FEARS," SOME OF WHICH WERE "MISGUIDED". HE STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD INDICATED SUPPORT FOR LANDINGS ON A TRIAL BASIS, WHILE HE HAD REAFFIRMED HMG'S POSITION THAT IT HAD TREATY RIGHTS WHICH IT DID NOT INTEND TO SEE OVERRIDDEN.

4. CALLAGHAN ALSO TOLD THE COMMONS THAT HE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT LENGTH WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND WAS CONVINCED THAT "...CARTER HAD GIVEN VERY CAREFUL THOUGHT TO HIS APPROACH ON THE MATTER", AND THAT "THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW IDEAS AND INITIATIVES ARE TEMPERED BY REALISM...."

5. RESPONDING TO A THATCHER QUESTION ON BRITAIN'S IMAGE
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ABROAD, CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED DISMAY ABOUT FOREIGN, AND PARTICULARLY, AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS OF THE BRITISH SITUATION. HE URGED MPS GOING TO AMERICA TO APPLY THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO REDRESS WHAT HE CALLED AN INACCURATE "HEADLINE" PICTURE OF BRITAIN, "...ONE CULLED SOMETIMES BY AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS LIVING IN WEST END BARS...

6. COMMENT. CALLAGHAN CONVEYED A FEELING THAT HE -- ALONG WITH THE BRITISH MEDIA -- CONSIDERED HIS WASHINGTON TRIP A GREAT SUCCESS. HE SEEMED GENUINELY IMPRESSED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S IMAGINATION AND ABILITY, AND DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE ISSUES SUCH AS CONCORDE, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WILL CONTINUE AND PROSPER. THE VISIT WAS WARMLY PRAISED BY MRS. THATCHER AND LIBERAL LEADER DAVID STEEL, THOUGH BOTH TRIED TO MAKE POINTS IN QUESTION TIME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770093-0099
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770350/aaaabrgq.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c247db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3081479
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALLAGHAN'S TRIP REPORT TO PARLIAMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UK, (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c247db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009